

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a disposable wearing article, comprising the steps of:

producing an elastic strip material by sandwiching ~~an~~ two elastic members between two webs under a stretched state in ~~the~~ a longitudinal direction of the webs in such a way that the elastic members are at positions apart from a widthwise center of the webs;

halving the elastic strip material ~~in the widthwise direction~~ in a center area between the elastic members so that protrusions and recesses alternately appear to thereby define a first elastic strip and a second elastic strip;

separating ~~a~~ the first elastic strip ~~material and a~~ the second elastic strip material ~~obtained by halving from each other~~ in the a widthwise direction;

~~reducing the shrinking force of the elastic member near predetermined parts of the first and second elastic strip materials; and~~

shifting the first elastic strip from the second elastic strip in the longitudinal direction so that the protrusions of the first and second elastic strips come into the same phase to define aligned pairs of protrusions, the protrusions in each of the aligned pairs of protrusions being spaced apart in the widthwise direction;

attaching ~~an~~ absorbers onto ~~the~~ respective predetermined parts of the first and second elastic strips ~~materials where the shrinking force is reduced so that the absorbers lie over the protrusions in each of the pairs of the first and second elastic strips;~~

wherein after or before the step of halving the elastic strip material, less shrinking force parts are formed on the two elastic members at portions corresponding to the respective protrusions of the first and second elastic strips.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the elastic member is an elastic member for body fitting,~~ the method further comprising a step of adhering an elastic member for waist to the elastic strip material under a stretched state.

Claim 4 (canceled).

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of folding the absorber to place the first and second elastic strip materials one over the other and sealing the opposite side portions of the first and second elastic strip materials.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein standing flaps are provided at the opposite sides of the absorber.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the standing flaps are so twisted as to be turned inward at the front side of the absorber and to be turned outward at the back side of the absorber.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~hollows are formed at the~~ opposite sides of the absorber are concave, and an elastic member for legs is adhered in the longitudinal direction of the absorber along the ~~hollows opposite sides of the~~ absorber under a stretched state.

Claims 9-19 (canceled).

20. (new) A method for producing a disposable wearing article, comprising:

providing two elongate webs, each of the webs having opposite first and second edges extending along a longitudinal direction of the respective web and a longitudinally extending central region between the first and second edges;

sandwiching first and second elastic members between the two webs so that the elastic members are stretched in the longitudinal direction of the webs, the first elastic members being between the first edges and the longitudinal central regions of the webs and the second elastic members being between the second edges and the longitudinal central regions of the webs, the webs and the elastic members producing an elastic strip material, the elastic members being arranged so that selected areas along the elastic strip material exhibit reduced elastic restoring forces;

forming an undulating cut through the elastic strip material so that the undulating cut alternately approaches and retracts from the edges;

separating the elastic strip material on opposite sides of the undulating cut to define first and second elastic strips, each of said first and second elastic strips having longitudinally spaced protrusions formed by the undulating cut, the protrusions substantially corresponding to the areas of reduced elastic restoring forces;

shifting the first elastic strip longitudinally and laterally so that the protrusions of the first elastic strip align with the protrusions of the second elastic strip while being spaced laterally therefrom; and

attaching absorbers to the first and second elastic strips so that each absorber overlies two of the aligned protrusions on the first and second elastic strips.

21. (new) A method of claim 20, wherein the step of sandwiching first and second elastic members between the two webs comprises sandwiching first and second waist elastic members between the webs at locations in proximity to the respective first and second sides.

22. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of adhering leg elastic members to the absorber along edges of the absorber extending substantially transverse to the edges of the webs.

23. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of sandwiching first and second elastic members between the webs comprises sandwiching a plurality of first elastic members at longitudinally spaced positions and sandwiching a plurality of second elastic members at longitudinally spaced positions, the longitudinally spaced first elastic members being at least partly offset in the longitudinal direction from the plurality of second elastic members.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of forming an undulating cut comprises forming the cut so that undulations of the cut approach the respective longitudinally spaced first and second elastic members.

25. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising a step of folding the absorber so that the respective first edges substantially register with the respective second edges of the webs.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, further comprising sealing the first and second elastic strips to one another at locations between the protrusions.

27. (new) The method of claim 25, further comprising cutting the first and second elastic strips between the protrusions that are longitudinally adjacent to one another.